

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Directors to Meet May 24

President B. C. Nott will shortly issue a call for the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors to be held in Washington on Thursday, May 24.

Government to Issue Intended Acreage Reports on Corn and Peas

Upon receiving information last month that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics would this year collect and publish statistics on the intended acreage of tomatoes for canning, but not on sweet corn and green peas for canning, the National Canners Association arranged to collect this information on corn and peas, and schedules were accordingly sent to all canners of these products.

The Association is now informed that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has sent out schedules for all three crops and that the Bureau's report will be issued at an early date. Accordingly the Association will not carry further its plan to compile and publish figures, the work on which was undertaken only to assure that the canning industry would have available this year the same information as was last year compiled by the Government.

Hearings Planned on Tentative Grades for Peas and Corn

The Warehouse Division of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has submitted to about 150 wholesale grocers throughout the country copies of the tentative grades for canned peas and canned corn formulated by that division. After securing

the views of these grocers, it is planned to hold several hearings throughout the canned pea and corn producing sections for the purpose of getting the views of the canning industry on the grades.

Standards Hamper Bill Reported from Committee

The bill (H. R. 8907) fixing standards for hampers, round stave baskets and splint baskets for fruits and vegetables has been reported by the House Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures with an amendment providing that "nothing herein contained shall prohibit or interfere with the farmers or market gardeners, or others, using five-eighth bushel baskets in gathering, delivering and selling their products to canning, packing or wholesale houses."

Bills Introduced to Define Standards for Preserves, Jams, Etc.

Companion bills (S. 3894 and H. R. 12693) have been introduced by Senator Jones and Representative Reed to define fruit jams, preserves, jellies, apple butter, and maraschino cherries, to provide standards for them, to require labeling, to prohibit adulteration or misbranding and to regulate interstate traffic in these products.

The proposed legislation defines preserves, jams, and jellies on the basis of the fruit, sugar and pectin used, and in section 6 of the bill requires appropriate labeling such as "Fruit preserve," "Fruit and pectin preserve," "Pectin and fruit preserve," "Fruit and sugar," and "Imitation preserve." In the definition for apple butter it is provided that it all contain not less than 35 per cent of water soluble solids and be prepared from not more than 20 pounds of sugar to each 50 pounds of fruit.

The bill requires that when corn sirup is used in place of sugar in the manufacture of the articles defined, except those which are labeled "imitation," the word "corn sirup" shall precede the name of the product upon the label and shall appear in equal size type and have equal prominence.

It is also provided that all fruit products which resemble preserves, jam or jelly as defined in the bill, except citrus-fruit marmalades, fruit pie fillings, and fountain crushed fruits labeled and sold as such, shall be deemed to be misbranded if not labeled as required in section 6.

Following their introduction, these bills were referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and to the House Committee on Agriculture, respectively.

House Approves Postal Rate Revision

The House of Representative on April 2 passed the bill (H. R. 12030) which would restore the one-cent postal card rate, reduce the second-class rates and revise the third and fourth class rates downward.

New Corn Borer Bill Approved by House Committee

The House Committee on Agriculture has voted a favorable report on the Purnell bill (H. R. 12632) to provide for additional appropriations to continue the work in controlling the spread of the European corn borer.

The measure, as approved by the Committee, carries an authorization for \$7,000,000 as against \$10,000,000 provided in the original bill. The money, under the terms of the bill, would be spent in the following ratio: For machinery, 1 per cent; overhead, 9 per cent; compensation to farmers for the work incident to the clean-up in the infested states, 90 per cent.

Argentina's Canned Meat Exports

Exports of canned meats from Argentina in 1927 totaled 2,525,558 cases, as compared with 2,246,947 cases in 1926, 2,165,034 in 1925, and 2,599,022 in 1924, according to a report from the River Plate Review published by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Of the exports in 1927, the United Kingdom took 1,283,213 cases, the United States 675,466 cases, Germany 101,674 cases, and other countries less than 100,000 cases each.

"Tin Can Parties"

Through the courtesy of the publishers of McCall's Magazine, there is being mailed with this issue of the Information Letter a reprint of the article "Tin Can Parties" that appeared in the April issue of McCall's. Cannerymen who may desire additional copies, we are informed, can obtain them in reasonable quantities by writing to the publishers, whose offices are at 236 West 37th Street, New York City.

Freight Movement

Revenue freight loadings for the week ended March 24 totaled 950,428 cars, an increase of 8,342 cars over the preceding week but a decrease of 53,108 cars below the same week in 1927.

Miscellaneous freight loadings for the week ended March 24 were 369,888 cars, a decrease of 6,389 from the corresponding week last year, while loadings of merchandise in less-than-carload lots totaled 260,641 cars, a decrease of 1,870 cars as compared with the same week last year.

Suspends Proposed Increased Rates on Cans

The Interstate Commerce Commission has suspended until November 1, 1928, schedules proposed by carriers that would increase the rates on cans, iron, steel or tin, and related articles, in Illinois and Western Trunk Line territories and between those territories and Central Territory. A hearing on the proposed changes has been set for May 24 at 10 o'clock at the Great Northern Hotel in Chicago before Examiner Kerwin.

Complaint Filed on Milk Rates

A complaint has been filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission (Docket 20822) asking the establishment of reasonable rates on evaporated milk from Greenville, Ill., to points in Missouri.

British Malaya's Pineapple Exports

Canned pineapple exports from British Malaya in December, 1927, amounted to 5,086 tons valued at \$484,447, as compared with 2,499 tons valued at \$262,970 in December, 1926. The United Kingdom and British Possessions took 4,858 tons of the 5,086 exported in December, 1927.

Seed Treatment for Corn

"Seed Treatment for Corn Diseases" is the title of Circular No. 108 just issued by the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa. The three diseases which attack corn seed destructively in Iowa are described together with the methods and advantages of treatment of seed corn. Three materials are recommended and the statement is made that the use of any one of them for corn seed treatment means a cost of three or four cents per acre.

While the publication does not discuss sweet corn specifically, the following statement is made:

"Seed treatment shows the greatest value on early planted corn. The dusts seem to protect the seed in cold wet soil in the early spring. Under these adverse conditions treated seed does not seem to rot as quickly as untreated seed."

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has also issued as Circular No. 34 a bulletin entitled "Chemical-Dust Seed Treatments for Dent Corn," which gives the results of experiments with the use of three of the various seed treatment compounds that are commercially available. As regards seed treatments the bulletin states:

"Corn seed treatments can not be expected to take the place of good seed selection, proper storage, and constructive breeding. Nor can they take the place of an accurately conducted germination test in selecting corn of superior vigor. They are not effective in controlling corn smut. Seed treatments will not always be followed by an increase in yield. In no case can seed treatments be expected to bring dead seed to life, nor can they take the place of proper soil management. In fact the greatest actual increases in yield following seed treatments usually have occurred on the more productive soils and with the better strains of corn. However, the greatest percentage increases in yield may occur on the less productive soils and with the less productive strains."

Grading Tomatoes for Quality

The Agricultural Experiment Station at Purdue University has published a bulletin entitled "Grading Tomatoes for Quality," which gives the results of investigations conducted during the 1927 season on the grading and classification of the tomatoes received by Indiana packers in 13 factory districts representative of the various tomato sections of the state. A summary of the results of this study is given in the bulletin as follows:

"As a basis for this work the United States grades for canning crop tomatoes were used. Tomatoes from 940 different growers were graded over a period of six weeks. A total of 3,265 loads or 3,518 tons were graded and classified.

"As a result of this work, it was found in 1927 that an average of 30.4 per cent were U. S. No. 1's, 50.6 per cent were U. S. No. 2's, while 19 per cent were culls, or unfit to manufacture into quality products.

"These investigations show that tomatoes delivered at a flat rate of \$12.00 per ton actually cost the canner \$14.95 per ton for the usable tomatoes. The above price does not allow for the extra cost of washing, cutting and removing the large quantities of decayed and green tomatoes. The cost of the usable tomatoes in some factories of the state averaged from \$16.22 to \$17.67 a ton. [The bulletin includes a table showing the cost of usable tomatoes per ton at various cost price differentials. Various prices for U. S. No. 1 and U. S. No. 2 are tabulated on the

basis of the actual deliveries which were graded throughout the season at 12 different canneries in Indiana.]

"Culls constitute one of the greatest losses to the canning factory. Some of the most important causes for culls were green, decay, sunburn and disease.

"Investigation in 1927 showed that 72 per cent of all cull loss was preventable; as 35.91 per cent were culls because the tomatoes were too green, while 35.82 per cent were discarded because of decay.

"The quality of tomatoes delivered depended more upon the grower than the season. The good grower usually delivered good tomatoes throughout the season.

"The buying of tomatoes at a flat contract price is unjust, as the producer of red ripe, sound tomatoes receives the same price per ton for his high quality tomatoes as the grower who delivers inferior ones.

"The results of these grading investigations indicate that no relation exists between the quality of the load and its size.

"Both the quantity and quality of tomatoes canned were increased by packing from graded tomatoes rather than field run. The average pack from U. S. No. 1's and U. S. No. 2's was 58 per cent more per ton than from field run, and the percentage of fancies and extra standards was increased."

Publications of Interest to Canners

The New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva has recently issued a number of publications relating to research work in progress on canning crops production problems. These include the following: Better Methods of Canning Crops Production (Bulletin No. 553), Insect Pests of Canning Crops in 1927 (Circular No. 100), The Mexican Bean Beetle (Circular No. 96), Diseases of Canning Crops in 1927 (Circular No. 99).

While these publications are particularly designed for service to growers of canning crops and the canners in New York State, they contain much of interest to canners in many other sections.

Among the subjects discussed in Bulletin 553 are tomato fertilizers, best distance of spacing tomato plants in the field, comparison of different methods of growing tomato plants, rate of seeding of peas, relation of time of planting peas to growth and yield, grading sweet corn seed for size, distance of planting and rate of seeding sweet corn, and rotations for canning crops.

Circular No. 100 reports further progress on methods of

spraying for cherry fruit fly and effect of canning operations on removal of spray deposits from cherries. Control of carrot rust fly and spinach leaf minor are also discussed.

Circular No. 96 describes Mexican bean beetle and gives methods of control by use of sprays or dusts applied to the growing crop.

Circular No. 99 reports the recent station studies of seed borne diseases of peas and how they may be avoided and makes suggestions on how to avoid or control certain diseases of tomatoes observed in New York State in 1927.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued as Miscellaneous Publication No. 13 a four-page leaflet on "Yellows, a Serious Disease of Tomatoes." The leaflet discusses the origin of the name, the nature of the disease, and the problem of control.

A "Handbook of United States Standards for Beans" has been issued by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The pamphlet contains definitions, classes and grade requirements, a discussion of important features of the U. S. bean standards, and a description of the Federal bean inspection service.

The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor has published as Bulletin No. 63 a report showing the present status of state laws pertaining to hours of employment, minimum wages and home work which affect working women. The bulletin is made up largely of a series of charts giving for each state a citation to the laws, with a summary of the provisions of these laws covering the various points such as hours of labor, rest periods, times for meals, home work, minimum wages, etc.

Interesting Articles in Good Housekeeping

Good Housekeeping for April presents two articles of special interest to canners. Miss Dorothy B. Marsh contributes an article under the title, "What's in a Can of Soup," which is the fourth of a series that she has been writing for the magazine. Dr. Walter H. Eddy of Columbia University, who has conducted the vitamin work carried on by that institution in collaboration with the National Canners Association Research Laboratories, furnishes an article on "Why Do We Buy Fruits?"

The April issue of Good Housekeeping also makes the announcement that Dr. Eddy is now associated with Dr. Harvey W. Wiley in the management of Good Housekeeping's Bureau of Food, Sanitation, and Health and will hereafter contribute regularly to that department.

Demonstration for Camp Directors

At a meeting of the Camp Directors Association held recently at Atlantic City an interesting feature for those in attendance was a display of canned foods taken by Commander Peary when he left in 1907 on his trip to the North Pole. The display was arranged by J. D. Brown, Vice President of Austin, Nichols & Co.

Several of the cans were opened during the convention, according to an announcement made by the Ambassador Hotel, where the meeting was held, and the contents found to be in excellent condition, notwithstanding the fact that they were over 21 years old, and notwithstanding the fact that they were canned in the day when canning was not thought to be in the high degree of perfection it is now. The camp directors sampled the beans, peas, corn and Boston brown bread.